

OPEN LETTER

February 22, 2019

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau:

We, the undersigned, are the families that were victimized last July 22. Our innocent children and loved ones were shot while engaged in the rightful act of enjoying our Danforth neighbourhood on a warm summer evening.

We ask you to pay personal attention to our on-going grief, as we laid to rest much too soon, Julianna Kozis and Reese Fallon, two young women with so much unrealized potential.

We thank you for appointing the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, to make recommendations as to what can be done to address what clearly has become a matter of public safety, and a societal problem that continues to escalate on a national level.

Having taken some seven months to grieve and consider what we should do to make a difference, we are urging that Canada follow the lead of other like-minded countries such as the UK, Japan and Australia and impose a ban on the private ownership of hand guns and military style assault rifles. We acknowledge that this action is not the only step that needs to be taken to stem gun violence; however, we believe it will be impactful and effective as the results in other countries have shown.

We are aware that certain types of firearms, used legally and responsibly, are deemed necessary to preserve a way of life.

In the case of those wanting to use a hand gun for sport or as a hobby, we conclude that the sport enthusiasts themselves do not need to own the hand guns that provide this experience. Ownership of guns for that purpose should be restricted to facilities that are tightly regulated, routinely inspected and secure.

Despite the steps taken by law-abiding owners and retailers, legally purchased hand guns and assault weapons are increasingly making their way into illegal situations, and act as instruments of death in homicides and suicides. In our case, a hand gun that was imported through legal channels, found its way to the perpetrator of our trauma and loss. Why did this need to happen? Why would we let this continue when reasonable compromise is possible? Are we going to learn from our experience or are we going to express grief in the moment and move on? We are better than this as a nation.

This is a matter of public safety. We are a just and democratic society, and trust that the facts will lead this country to support our unanimous call, for the ban of private ownership of hand guns and military style assault weapons.

We urge our fellow Canadians and all MPs to sign and support the e-petition supporting this ban at www.triggerchange.ca

Sincerely,

The Families

Noor Samiei (victim)

Mandana Partomanesh and Mohamad Samiei (parents to Noor Samiei)

Skye McLeod (victim)

Patrick and Jane McLeod (parents to Skye McLeod)

Miranda Li (victim)

Vivian Ho and Jin Li (parents to Miranda Li)

Samantha Price (victim)

Claire Smith and Ken Price (parents to Samantha Price)

Max Smith (victim)

Wendy Harris and Kevin Gowans (parents to Max Smith)

Doug Fallon and Claudine DeBeaumont (parents to Reese Fallon)

Quinn Fallon (sister to Reese Fallon)

Donny Kozis (victim) and Voula Kozis (parents to Julianna Kozis)